# CONTRACTOR OF THE FAIR The Times' Daily Short Story.

## A CLEW BY TELEPHONE

[Original.]

A ring at the telephone. Only a metal bell rung by electricity, but the current has been turned on by m living human being, and that being wishes to speak to me. All day I have been alone in the old farmhouse. The rooms have seemed more than emptyrather, they have seemed full of nothingness. Without the wind has been playing a mournful tune on the telegraph wires lining the road, and now that evening has come the air and the wires are still, but the sounds are replaced by the whippoorwill.

Is it strange that I should long for the sound of a human voice? I start the receiver and listen.

"Help! Help!"

It is a woman's voice.

A footstep, then a growl-a human growl, that of a man who, though the process of development has been going on about and within him for ages, still something connected with the tele-

The werds are faint, but distinct. They are doubtless spoken at a distance from the telephone.

If horror could be gathered like electricity, what I feel would be equal to

I can faintly distinguish the words,

advantage of the turning of the robber's back, for suddenly I hear a blood. click and the words:

"I am being robbed and shall be murdered. Mrs. Pogram. The man

He has dragged her away again. Great heavens! What can I do? The er farmer. I might call the telephone office and report the horror to them, "Let go my throat!"

It is the brute's coarse voice.

wire by a dying woman. One more sound, but it is only the ling.

CANADA MANAGA MANAGA POMAGA PARAGA MANAGA MA "Central!" I call. "Central!" I ring

and call till I get an answer. "Mrs. Pogram, on the Alpina road, has been murdered. Get up a posse at once to go there. Look out for a man with gold on him and possibly a mark of fingers on his throat. I will be with you as soon as I can saddle a horse.

Ten minutes later I ride up to a hamlet to find three men standing by their horses and two others leading theirs from the stables. We mount and ride to the Pograms, dash Into the house, and there in the broad hall a woman lies pierced to the heart.

Up to this moment there has been a hope of finding her alive. Now that is gone. With one accord we bend our wits and our energies to the task of \$10,000. My chief sensation was not finding her murderer. Leaving one of one of admiration, but of fear that I the posse at the house, we remount and dash away in different directions. up, hurry to the telephone, take down We are well armed and proceed singly so as to cover more ground.

Ahead of me is a tramp. Hearing my horse's hoofs, he looks back. When I reach him I turn his pockets inside out and look for marks on his throat. His pockets contain only a few coppers and his throat is clear.

A shot, the signal on which we have expresses his dissatisfaction like a agreed, on the road to my left. I let tiger in the jungle-then a jerk on down some rails and ride over there. Two of our posse are riding up at the same time. Amos Baker is holding his "Mercy! Mercy! Don't kill me! Spare horse with one hand while he covers an ugly looking man with the other. We empty his pockets, but find nothing of value. I knock him under the chin to make him hold his head up, and there on the throat is-not finger marks, but a scratch.

Somehow I am confident that we a thousand volts. Some one is being have the right man, and we take him murdered-a woman. She has tried to to the Pograms. On a finger of the dead call me, and the brute has dragged her woman is a ring, the stone of which is from the telephone. And I stand here turned in toward the palm of the paralyzed, no hope of saving her, not hand. There are five little prongs even a chance of learning who is her which hold the stone, one of which has murderer. point. There is a reading glass on the "Where is the money?" and the reply: table in the living room which reveals "In a stocking in the closet. Take it something, one can't see what, on the A footstep and the opening of a doctor to come with his microscope. door. The woman must have taken He comes and discovers particles of skin and an infinitesimal quantity of

Shall we finish the job or turn the man over to the authorities? We retire for consultation and hit upon a device to gain more proof. Being sure he had hidden the gold he had taken, we decide to give him his choice be-Pograms live five miles from any oth- tween two alternatives. If he will tellus where to find the gold we will turn him in to be tried by law. If not, we but what good would it do? It would will swing him to a tree then and there. not be possible for any one to reach He plends that he knows nothing of the Pograms in less than half an hour. the gold. We arrange the rope with its noose about his head. He breaks down and tells us he dropped the plun-A groan-the last sound sent over the | der in the creek while crossing the bridge. There we find it in its stock-

still. No. there is the ticking of a sheriff. F. A. MITCHEL. ty years in the empire and is here doing

How It Seems to Hold a \$10,000 Peachblow Vase In Your Hands-Chinese Treasures of Great Price-Getting New Ideas About China - Li Hung Chang's Confusion About Missionary Claims - A Chinese City Block In Miniature - The Carpenter's Shop. The Jeweler's Store-The Tea House. A Rice Store-Home of a Chinese Gentleman-Hat and Shoe Store-The Umbrella Maker.

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE BY MARK BENNITT.)

Mr. Wang unlocked the big glass door and placed in my hands a peachblow vase eight Inches high valued at might drop it. Many a better man than I has dropped \$10,000. Some have dropped it in wheat and some in corn and cotton. A friend of mine dropped his watch in some wheat and found it again the next spring, but sums of \$10,-000 dropped in grain are not so easily recovered. I turned the vase over to see where the value might be secreted. A delicate mottling was all that I could discover. I was then permitted to return it to the custodian representing the great Chinese government. Then I was handed another vase of the faand, as if I had not already had honors enough, a third was thrust upon me, value \$6,000. In a space of five minutes I examined \$24,000 worth of peachblow vases, three of the greatest treasures of the Chinese government, the product of a lost art in the coloring of pottery. The vases are 300 years old and far more scarce than sums of \$10,000, strange as this may appear to the inexperienced among us. You, too, may see them in the Palace of Liberal Arts, which in this instance is a palace of lost arts.

China is an unopened book of wonders to most of us. The great Chinese wall between the empire and other nations is the complex language that produces brain fag and discouragement to most of those who attempt to master its intricacles and entanglements. But here are men speaking the English tongue whose mastery of the Chinese is equally facile. Wong Kat Kah, the imperial vice commissioner to the world's fair, is a Harvard graduate. Francis A. Carl, the other imperial vice commissioner, is an Englishman who has been more than twenty years in China. Mr. D. Percebols, the secretary of the commission, is a Frenchman who has been thirty years in China and is intimately famillar with the affairs of the country. owing to his high connection with the customs service. Mr. J. A. Berthet is closing of a door. After that all is In ten weeks he is swung off by the another Frenchman who has been twenvaluable service in dispensing a correct knowledge of the Flowery Kingdom.

> China is our greatest missionary field. "My uncle Kuroki is of Polish origin. It is no secret that the Chinese do not His father was a Polish nobleman of like our missionaries. Their aggressive Russia after the revolution of 1831. He Chang who said: "You send us your first went to Paris and afterward to Presbyterians, your Catholics, your Turkey and later joined the Holland Methodists and Baptists, your Episcotroops at Borneo. From there he went pallans and others. You all claim one to Japan and married a Japanese. Christ, yet each missionary says his "From this union was born General way is the best. Now, which are we

Put the work goes on from year to year and decade to decade, and wheth-"As the name Kourowski is difficult | er worshiping Confucius, Tau or Budto pronounce in Japanese, my uncle dha the Chinese are a wonderful peowrote and pronounced his name Ku- pie, a fact proved by the vast exhibit roki. My uncle is very proud of his here in the Palace of Liberal Arts. I that never saw any animal's back, excan scarcely name a single article for personal or household use or adornment not here catalogued. I think perhaps the Americans have more gimcracks, but the Chinese seem to have overlooked nothing that might meet a with the umbrella stock, and the fan human need, even to their square holed is as commonly used as the other artimoney that is worth but ten for one, but sells here at three for 5 cents.

Let's walk around this miniature city block, which so graphically shows life just as it is in China. Here is a carpen ter's shop, with carpenters in miniature. A shrine is at the back, for the Chinese are a plous people and venerate their ancestors, whose virtues are ever before them. One of these carpenters is planing a square stick. Another is wielding an ax. A third is ghiling together the parts of a frame. The proprietor is talking to a customer, who is distinguished by the bright fan which he carries. Peeping through the lattice of the upper story we may see a painter at work upon a half painted window sash. Could any scene be more commonplace? Yet how interesting it is to know that the Chinese are the counterpart of ourselves in ten thousand little common; laces that make up our lives! Our Chinese friend clasps his two hands over his heart and by this sign expresses the thought, "I place you nearest my heart." We in-America reach for each other's right hand and send a reverberation through our frames that makes our teeth chatter. The salutations are equally hearty and sincere. We differ only in the manner.

Let us look luto the jeweler's store,

dangling from strings. With all the signs whirling and flashing in the sun on a breezy day in a Chinese business street, the scene is surely one of life. How very like an American jeweler's store! Two groups of statuary are on either side of the door as you are well within. Several chandellers promise a brilliant interior at evening. The proprietor is behind a counter. His stock of jewels is in a number of drawers at the side of the room. A large show case in the corner contains specimens of falence too large for the drawers. A customer appears to be buying somethink just as one might do in America.

Here is a tea house, or restaurant. Perhaps in China they will call their tea houses restaurants some day, just as we have adopted the word "cafe" from France. On the ground floor the great tespot for hot water-as big as a ten borsepower boller-is ready always to supply the steaming cup. The tea rooms are above, extending over several other stores. The farthest is an opium room, with its wide benches and stools of equal height, upon which the devotees may full back, lulled by the pipe dreams induced by the insidious drug that is responsible for China's most deplorable of vices. This little model is the only evidence discoverable in all the great exhibit that China admits the existence of the oplum smoking habit among her people. But, then, we have oplum rooms in New York and San Francisco.

Beneath the tea rooms is a rice or grain store. The signs probably bear a legend as familiar throughout China as the "Grain, Flour, Feed and Baled mous peachblow make, value \$8,000, Hay" signs are to Americans. Rice is the great staple food of China. At his meals the Chinese has his bowl of rice as we have our potato. His meats, bread, cakes and fruits are his delicacies and are to be partaken of only sparingly. "I have never seen a drunk-Chinese," said a gentleman to me who had traveled 3,000 miles from the codes into China. Yet the Chinese dracks his wine, but by thimblefuls and upon appointed days only. Gluttony and unbridled indulgence are not for the Chinese. Optum smoking was origfaally the white man's vice, and the better class of Chinese deplore its presence within the empire's boundaries.

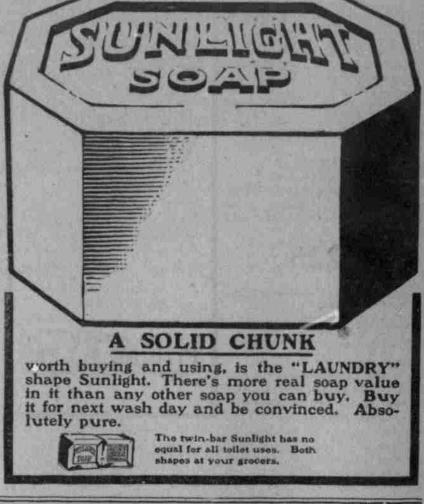
> Here is a Chinese gentleman's town house with two outer rooms where the cooly porter stands to receive the guests of his master. Glancing in, we may see the gentleman taking a sip of tea. In the far room is the shrine with ancestral tablets and incense jars. If we look about in the exhibit all around us we may see the real furniture with which a gentleman's house in China is furnished. Note the great rugs with long pile and fine pattern. The Chinese are thorough in what they do, and here is the proof of that thoroughness. The sedan chair, carried by two coolies, sits upon the floor of the large entrance room, waiting the master's convenience, as a wealthy American's carriage walts at the curb or in the stable.

Hats and shoes are a Chinese busicombination. In the hat ar store the round hats with button decorations that indicate the social standthat his father was a Frenchman, a has just completed is one of the most insure a comfortable physical standing ing and the shoes with felt soles that German and a Pole. A German newspa- valuable books on China in the English are ranged in glass cases on the walls, just like any American store might be. The coarser grades are at the back part of the store on open shelves, where moth and rust and dust may corrupt if the proprietor falls to advertise in the local paper. Everything is graded in China in much the same way as elsewhere in the world. The refined tings-the good hats and shoes in the glass cases and the coarse ones unprotected. The cultured people have the good houses because culture demands them, and the rough and unrefined dwell in the humbler abodes, all grad-

> The Chinese "umbrellas to mend" man has a most respectable looking store. Below are the finished goods, and we peep through a lattice to see him at his labors on the second floor. cept perhaps to ride to market. So, while "there's nothing like leather when well put together," the Chinese shoemaker can get along very well without it. Fans as well as shoes go

You might mistake the slik store for a tea house, for tea drinking is the most noticeable occupation of those within view. But the tea is everywhere. Ten is a part of every social and business conference. Tea is the Chinese promoter of good fellowshipthe balance wheel that keeps head and heart steady when there is business to do or personal experiences to recount. The silks are seen above, whither some of the little tea parties have adjourned to examine colors and qualities and to strike a bargain. One of the little wooden men is washing his face with both hands just as you or I might do when taking a thorough sousing. These little details go far to give us a correct picture of the real China. Fair Grounds, St. Louis.

Worse Than the Puritans, James Gill of Toledo, O., has married a girl whose father insisted on having her full name of "Missouri Arkansas Napoleon Four Hundred Miles Below the Mouth of the Ohio Absher" placed on the records when the license was obtained. Henry Absher, the man guilty of inflicting such a dreadful combination of words upon his daughter, explained that she was named in bonor of an nunt who lived at Napoleon, on the Mississippi river, in Arkansas, 400 miles below the mouth of



### IN BOSTON MARKETS.

on the Leading Products Tha Are in Demand. BALL

Boston, Sept. 14.-Theer is no material change in the local dairy market. Butter-Vermont and New Hampshire extra creamery, 21c; northern New York, 20%@21c; western, 19%@21c; northern firts, 18%@10%c; western firsts, 18@19c; eastern best marks, 19c; eastern fair to good, 16@18c; creamery seconds, 15@16c; thirds, 14@14%c; Vermont dairy extra, 184@19c; New York and Vermont dairy firsts, 16@17c; seconds, 12@15c; western lmitation, cream-ery extra, 15c; firsts, 14c; ladle firsts, 14c; seconds, 18c; thirds, 11@12c; packing stock, 116/12c; renovated, 126/15c; boxes extra northern creamery, 22e; firsts, 20c; extra dairy, 19c; firsts, 16@ 18e; common to good, 12@14e; prints,

Cheese-New York and Vermont twins extra, 920%c; firsts, 868%c; seconds, 667c; Wisconsin twins, good to choice, 8600c.

Eggs-Fancy hennery, 27628c Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire extras, 24@25c; fair to good, 20@22c; York state firsts, 22@23c; Michigan extra, 22c; firsts, 206/21c; other western firsts, 19@20c; fair to good, 1716@1816c; poor to fair, 15@16c; dirties, 14@16c; checks, 12@13c.

A distinctly better feeling is noted in the local fruit and produce market. Business has been in larger volume and prices with but few exceptions have shown considerable firmness. The weather of late has been less destructive than it was a week or two ago and dealers in consequence have not been so willing to shade prices to prevent a total loss by spoiling. There have been few important changes in prices.

Onions are in moderate demand at about last week's prices. Cabbages are plentiful, but slightly higher prices are being obtained for them. Green corn s having a steady sale at 40c to 50c a bushel. Squashes and tomatoes are coming in freely and selling at low prices. Turnips are plenty, but not muterially changed in price. The potato market is well stocked and as the demand is only moderate prices are easy. Other vegetables show little change from a week ago. Vegetable quotations follow.

Potatoes-Hebrons, 50@52e a bu; Green mountains, 53/255c a bu; clothhead sweets, \$1.87%@2 a bbl; double- went to the chief of his battalion and heads, \$202.25 a bbl.

ish onions, \$2.75 a ert; leeks, 50c a doz behs.

Turnips-Yellow, \$1@1.25 a bbl; white, 50/2/75c a but

Spinach, etc-Spinach, 15c a bu; cabbages, \$204 per 100; red cabbages, 50c a box.

Lettuce, etc-Lettuce, 136235c n doz

house, Theast a box. Beans-String beans, green, 75c% \$1.50 a bu; wax, 75e27\$1 a bu; shell

beans, \$1621.50 a bu; lima beans, 75cor \$1 a bu; improved lima beans, \$1.75 a bu. | manded what he meant. Miscellaneous-Beets, 25@35c a bu; carrots, 60c a bu; parsnips, \$1621.25 a bu; encumbers, 50c@\$1 n box; pickling eucumbers, \$1973 a box; egg plants, 75c @\$1 a doz; peas, \$1.50@1.75 a bu; peppers, 75@90c a bu; marrow squash, 75 685c a bbl; turban squash, \$1.25 a bbl; celery, 756190c a doz behs; radishes, 25 6740c a box; cauliflower, \$1671.50 a doz; green corn, 402,50c a box.

The movement of apples has been



much better than it was and on some kinds higher prices are quoted. Choice red stock is having a good sale and green cooking stock meets with a ready sale.

Apples-Gravensteins, \$2522.75 a bbl; duchess, \$1.5002 a bl; common sour, \$1-@1.50 a bbi; pound sweets, \$1.50@2.25 a bbi; average mixed varieties, \$1.25@ 1.75 a bbl.

Cranberries-Cape Cod, \$5@6 a bbl and \$1.50@1.75 a ert.

Peaches-Maryland and Delaware yellow, \$1@1.25 a bskt; white, 75c@\$1 a bskt; York state, \$1.50@2 a carrier; Connecticut yellow, \$16(1.25 a bskt; white, 50e@\$1.15 a bskt; Ohio, 65@75e

a bskt; West Virginia, \$1@1.15 a bskt. Peurs-California Bartletts, hard ripe, \$1.25@1.50 a box; green, \$1.65@ 1.85 a box; native Bartletts, 50c@\$1.25 a bu, and \$263 a bbl.

Plums-California Kelsey, \$2.50@ 3.50 a case; mixed varieties, \$1.25@2 a case; York state, 15@20c 8-lb bskt.

Blueberries-Nova Scotia, 10@12c a Cantaloupes-Rocky Ford, \$1,25@1.50

Grapes-Hudson river, 65c@\$1 a

cuse; pony bskts, 10@12c each. Provisions-Heavy backs, \$17.25; medium backs, \$16.50; heavy short cuts, \$17.25; medium short cuts, \$16; long

euts, \$18.25; lean ends, \$18.50@19.50;

bean pork, \$130:13.50; loose salt, \$3-4c. Fresh meats-Beef, choice, 7@9c lb; good, 5@7c lb; bindquarters, choice, 104/2114c; lb; common to good, 6/38c 1b; forequarters, choice, 6@6%c; com-Ib; common to good, 5/26c lb; yearlings, eastern good to choice, 6@7c lb; western, 6@Sc lb; spring lamb, eastern choice, 11c lb; common to good, 7@10c 1b; western good to choice, 96211c lb; veals, choice eastern, 10@11e lb; fair to good, 8600c lb; common, 6627c lb.

Dressed poultry-Northern and eastern fresh killed fowls, choice, 15c lb; common to good, 13@14c lb; green, ducks, 15@16c lb; chickens, choice, 4 to 5 lbs each, 23@25c lb; 21/2 to 31/4 lbs each. 16@18c lb; common mixed sizes, 14@ 15c lb; choice brollers, 16@17c lb; pigeons, \$1@1.62 doz; squab, \$1.20@2.40 doz; western iced turkeys, choice, 15 @16c lb.

KUROPATKIN'S WILL.

It Found the Way to Kokand and to In 180k when General Kuropatkin was only an obscure lleutenant, he asked to be sent along with the expe-Onions-Native. 80/485c a bu; Span- dition to Kokand, which at the time

was being prepared. After meeting with a flat refusal he addressed himself to his comrades, who, according to Russian usage, elected him paymaster, with the hope that the new distinction would procure the chief's consent. They then went en masse to ask that their lieutenant be sent, according heads; mint, 25c a dox behs; water to his desire, along with the expedition cress, 35c a doz behs; parsley, 125c a to Kokand, but the chief was as firm as ever. Kuropatkin accompanied Tomatoes-Native, 256:75c a bu; hot- them on the mission, but when they departed he remained in the hall like a sentinel on guard. Two hours later the chief happened

to discover him there and sternly de-

"I am waiting for you to send me to Kokand," coolly replied Kuropatkin, "Never! You understand? Never!" stormed the chief angrily as he turned away.

Eighteen hours afterward the chief in passing found Kuropatkin still standing in the same place.

"Well, the devil take you!" he exclaimed softly. "What can any one do with a head like yours? Since there's no way to keep you from going, go on. The army has need of officers like you. As for paymasters, I can find them anywhere.

Church Bells and Races. Till the year 1829 the bells of the parish church at Chesterfield, in England, were rung each year in celebration of the races. In that year, however, the vicar, at that time the Rev. Thomas Hill, put an end to the prac-

Ruspherries.

Raspberries are extensively used in the manufacture of sweetments, while different preparations of the fruit are used in medicine in cases of fever and

## Remarkable Recoveries of Russians From Büllet Wounds.

ECHOES FROM THE WAR

JAPANESE PROUD OF THEIR DEAD

Battle, Says a Traveler - Russian Students In Germany Rejoice Over Japanese Victories, Declares a Cineinnati Attorney.

Do Not Mourn For Those Killed In

An interesting account is given by the St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Telegraph of remarkable recoveries of Russian soldiers from wounds made by what they term Japanese toy bullets. These bullets, say Russian surgeons, are, if not perfectly harmless, at least the next best thing to that, forming the mildest kind of missile that has ever yet been fired from a rifle. One of the consequences is that a number of wounds which formerly were mortal are now healed

and forgotten in a few days. "Up till now a bullet in the head," remarks a Russian physician who is K. Stricker, a prominent young attorcollecting data on the surgical aspect ney, recently returned to his home in of the present war, "which plerced Cincinnati. the brain was certain to cause death. But here we have a case in which to the Russo-Japanese war, Mr. Stricka missile actually went through the er said: medulia oblongata, yet the man who slight headache only on wet days. All the Russians, but the people in general the men in the hospital have tiny sympathize with the Japanese. How-

from Russian officers as to the char- ally itself openly with Japan and thereacter of the Japanese bullet, was told: by precipitate the French nation's as-"Compared with ours the Japanese sistance for the Russian, also necessisiderably greater. Our magazine rifle her powerful neighbor. takes a bullet of three lines and im- "Now, however, the German people parts to it an initial velocity of 620 feel content that the danger is passed meters, whereas the Japanese rifles and that the Japanese will be victorihave a 2.5 line bullet, with an initial ous. There are many Russian students velocity of 725 meters. The Japanese in Germany, and they rejoice openly bullet only penetrates the fissue, but over a Japanese victory. They have

men it inflicts the minimum of dam- they generally predict that, in the event age, its chief effect being to expand of the Japanese defeating the Russians, the muscles of the peritoneum, which there will be a revolution in their counquickly contract, closing the orifice, try, that riots will occur in St. Petersthus saving the injured man from burg and that the present form of govperitonitis and death."

Ever since General Kuroki began to excite worldwide admiration for his press. They agreed that his mother | dead or disabled.

was a Japanese, but variously stated The catalogue which Mr. Perceboisper which accepted the theory of the language, for the reason that the ex-Japanese general's French origin has hibit contains something of everything been put right by Yosatia Oshima, a important to the Chinese, and the book nephew of General Kuroki, who writes describes them all. the following letter, says the New York Tribune

the name of Kourowski who fied from ways are irritating. It was Li Hung and elegant things get their proper set-

Kuroki, who in the family is tensingly to believe? China has her own re- ed by the common natural law that called 'the Pole,' His father upon his ligion. Why should we adopt another knows neither clime, country nor creed, deathbed said to him that perhaps about which we are so much consome day he would be able to take fused?" vengeance upon the Russlans for their cruel treatment of unhappy Poland.

After having completed a two years' course of studies at Oxford, England, and at Heidelberg, Germany, Adam Speaking of the situation with regard

"Before war was actually declared received the wound and cracked skull there was much excitement in Gerwas smiling and complaining of a many. Politically that nation is with wounds, smaller than a threepenny ever, the entire people felt that a bit, a mere red stain, nothing more," world war was imminent. It was A medical investigator, inquiring feared that the English nation would bullet is tiny, but its velocity is con- tating Germany's action on behalf of

no feeling or sympathy for the autoc "When passing through the abdo- racy that governs their country, and

Japan and Paupers.

ernment will be overthrown."

There are very few paupers in Jamilitary skill against the Russlans in pan, because old age is revered there. Manchuria various accounts of his ori- No parents or children come to want gin have been going the rounds of the unless all their natural protectors are The signs outside are painted boards the Ohlo.